Chapter 34 | Favorites Lunch with Shumai

Gido Amagakure

Turn here and go straight...
...then walk all the way down and you'll see the post box.
Turn at the leaves, and then right at the house with a dog!
...and the dog might be out for a walk, right?
The leaves might blow away...
That's true!
Tsu-mugi...
That's how you get lost.
Huh?
You need to pick landmarks that will always be there.
Hmm...
Turn left at the second street, and...

We're here!
You're going to be coming here this spring.
All by myself!
GULP
ゴクリ
No, they put you in groups, so you'll be going with the other kids from the neighborhood.
Aww.
Now...
Do you know how to get us home?
Uh huh!
I saw a kitty where we made the last turn!
....

Sure!
Inuzuka-san! Over here!
Morning!
Morning!
Morning!
Farewell, my boxed lunch life!
It's been so long...!
Well, anyway...
That's right!
Next week's the last time we make boxed lunches for the kids, right?
PUFF
ふぁ
You should do it too. It doesn't have to be long.
Oh, yeah?
Every year on the last day we put letters in with the lunches. It's a tradition.
That's a great idea!

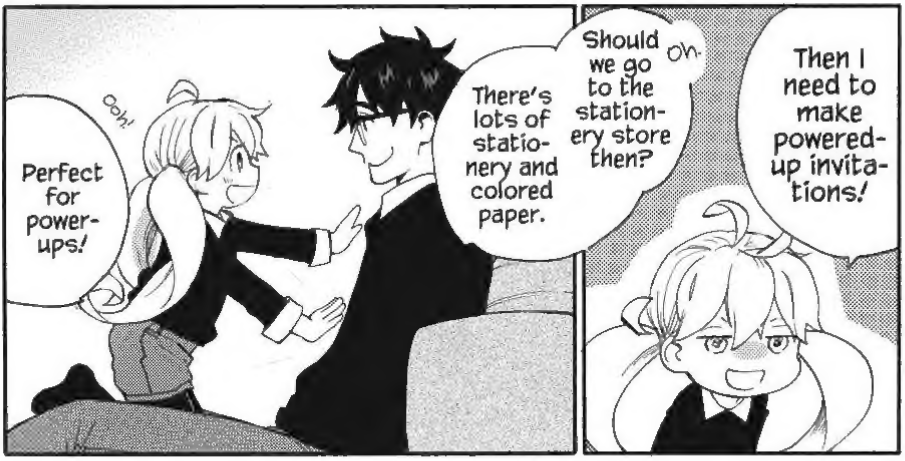
Hana-chan's place is right near the school, right?
What about you, Yuka-chan?
I wish we were all walking to school together.
Yup!
I learned how to get there!
So you went to see the school!
I-It's just the school bus.
It's far away.
All alone?
Wow!
It's not that special.
THE BUS!!
I'm taking the bus...
And there's school lunches, too!
School lunches!
Yeah, there's a pool.
And a library, too.
Right!
I can't wait!
Everything else is the same.
Your school has a pool, right?

It'll be time to study ...
...for entrance exams.
SIGH...
...once that's over, it'll be our third year, huh?
It's almost spring break, but...
AAA!...
ほお。。。
Tell us!
Huh? What? What?
Y'know, I've been thinking...
You know what you're gonna do after you graduate?
Eh... Eh heh heh...
College...
...maybe?
AWW, COME ON!
I'll tell you once you two make up your minds.

Oh, yeah!
Hmm?
Daaaad...
...dy!
Is there really anything I want to do?
Yes, that's right.
No more?
Huh?!
...that means you won't make box lunches anymore?!
I just realized.
If there's school lunch...
Now now, your school's supposed to have really good lunches!
Aw, I'm kinda flattered.
I've got an idea. Since it's your last homemade lunch, why don't I make one with all your favorites.
A favorites lunch?

Let me see...
STOP!!
I'll write up my requests, so just wait!
#1: Fried Chicken.
I only ever do fried food in the morning when there's a special event.
I guess I can handle it for the final time.
Definitely!
Gotta have chicken!
#2: Tamago yaki!
Oh, surprising.
I like eggs!
#3: Hamburg Steak
You do like meat.
Eh heh heh!
#4: Onigiri with salmon and sesame seed konbu.
Got it!
And then mini tomatoes and kinpira.
You asked for vegetables!
I like tomatoes!
#5: Shumai, huh?
Oh, shumai...

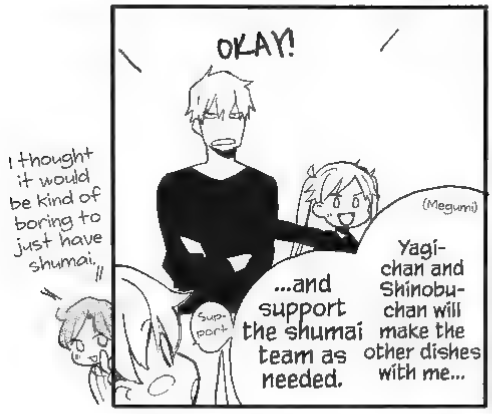
This?
Huh.
Box: Frozen shumai
Huh?!
You can make shumai from scratch?
Um...
Can we use frozen shumai like we usually do?
I'll make the rest myself.
Hmm? I dunno. I'll have to ask.
Can we do it like when we had the gyoza party?
AW, YEAH!!
Then let's make them!
Uh...


Then I need to make powered-up invitations!
Oh.
Should we go to the stationery store then?
There's lots of stationery and colored paper.
Ooh!
Perfect for power-ups!

Is there stationery with kitties...
...or shumai?
Maybe?
Did you find some?

And...
...so...
...then...

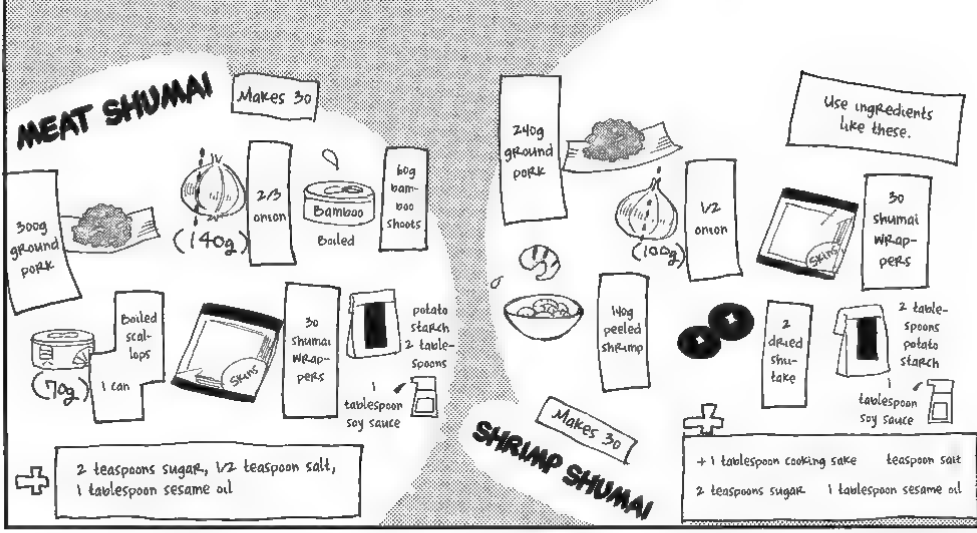
HELLO, EVERYONE!
All right.
Thank you so much for coming everyone.


OKAY!
I thought it would be kind of boring to just have shumai.
(Megumi)
Yagi-chan and Shinobu-chan will make the other dishes with me...
...and support the shumai team as needed.
Sup-port

The main dish will be shumai today...
...at Tsumugi-chan's request!

That sounds difficult.
Yeah..
The skins for shumai are thinner than gyoza skins.
It sounds like it'll break easily.
...so let's focus on that!
The star here is the filling...

We're using store-bought skins.
Um... first... ...let's make the filling!


MEAT SHUMAI
Makes 30
300g ground pork
(140g)
2/3 onion
Bamboo
Boiled
60g bamboo shoots
(70g)
1 can
Boiled scallops
Skins
30 shumai wrappers
potato starch
2 tablespoons
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 teaspoons sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon sesame oil
Use ingredients like these.
240g ground pork
(140g)
1/2 onion
Skins
30 shumai wrappers
60g peeled shrimp
2 dried shiitake
2 tablespoons potato starch
1 tablespoon soy sauce
SHRIMP SHUMAI
Makes 30
+ 1 tablespoon cooking sake
teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons sugar
1 tablespoon sesame oil

Chop the bamboo shoots.
Stop staring at me!
He's being complimented.
You're getting better!
Ooh...
Mince the onions...
CHOP
...and sprinkle with the potato starch.
Okay...

And mix!
SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH SCRUNCH
Put the ground pork and scallops into a bowl.

Mix with your hands until it turns white-ish.
White...
White-ish?
Looking good!
SCRUNCH SCRUNCH
Then...
...add the sugar, salt, and soy sauce.
Like this?
DRIP DRIP
Then add the sesame oil and you're done.
Mix in the bamboo shoots and onions.
All right, Tsumugi!
Let's pinch the shumai!
How do we do it?
Okay! Okay!
Watch me.

ADD THE MEAT.
And shape it and make sure it doesn't fall through.
Then make a circle with your fingers...
Put the meat in the middle of the wrapper.
PAT PAT
PAT PAT
Fingers like this?
Rolling, rolling, rolling...
It's shumai!
It's done!
Now I can't make my own!
Huh?
Daddy, help!
It's pretty hard.
Yeah.
Hmm?
It's tricky ...

How about this?
It looks similar.
A little sake cup
Oh?
CLINK
Oh...
Oh dear
Is there anything Tsumugi-chan can use instead of her hands?
What about this?!
It's a lot prettier than Daddy's!
Oh...
PAT
Yeah.
PAT
You want one too, sensei?
Oh, no...
I've almost got it, I think.
So I'll keep on like this.

Huh-hmm...
Hey.
Hurry up or we'll start helping!
You've still got the shrimp shumai to do!
OKAY!
Steam 10 minutes in a steamer...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ぽかっ
POK
Ooh!

Wow...
We're done with the stir-fry too.
Get out the little plates!
Tsumugi-chan, you okay with barley tea?
Yeah!
Chop-sticks! Chop-sticks!
Let's...
...eat!

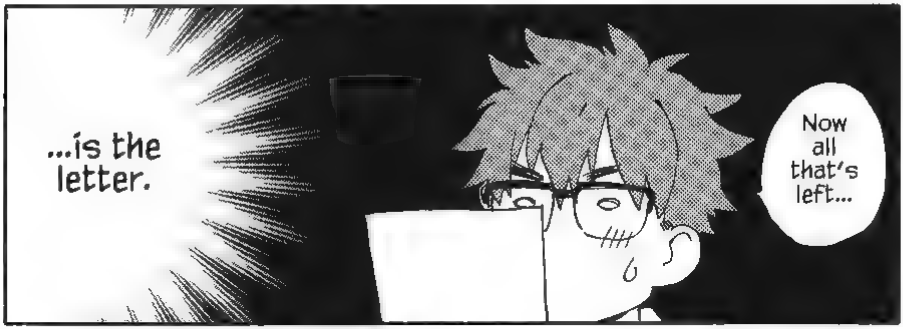
Let's start with the shumai!
PLUMP
おっちり
HUFF PUFF
STEAM
It's a meat bomb!
Hah!
It's not too heavy.
It's because it's steamed.
Yup.
It's good...
Yeah!
It's yummy!
Yum!
I need some beer!
Ooh!
You can freeze them after they're steamed.
We'll freeze the ones from today...
...so you can put them in your boxed lunch.

Well, now...
Y'know ...
Elementary school, huh?
TEARY-EYED...
しくしく
What color backpack did you get?
Red!
It's the coolest!
There are a lot of colors now.
But she said she wanted red.
I want to see it!
I'll show you next time!
Hey...
How was elementary school for everyone?
Was it fun?

There's a lot of new things in elementary school.
So I'm sure it'll be fun like today was.
Tsumugi-chan, did you have fun today?
Yup!
I don't really remember...
Umm... Umm...
1st Grade
1st Grade
Yeah.
—
You'll make new friends, too!
We've been friends for ages!
You know Yagi and your daddy are friends from waaaaay back, right?
Tsu-mugi...

That's fine too!
You can be friends with both the kids from pre-school and the ones from elementary school
Okay!
The night before the last boxed lunch day

I've got the rice set...
...and made what I can make in advance.
The fried chicken and the tamago yaki...
I'll do the rest tomorrow morning.
Okay.
POK

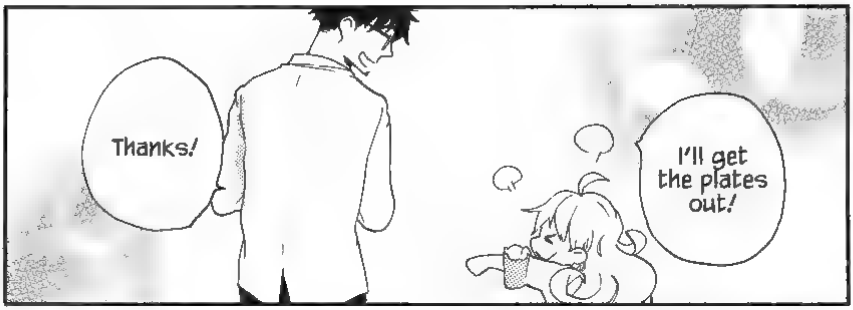

Now all that's left...
...is the letter.

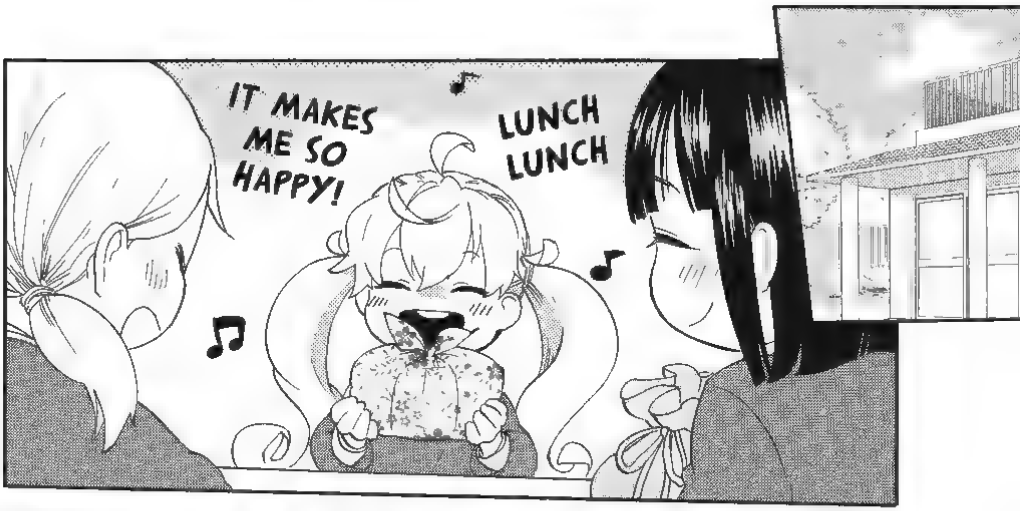
...

What do I write? I should've asked everyone.
I'm torn!

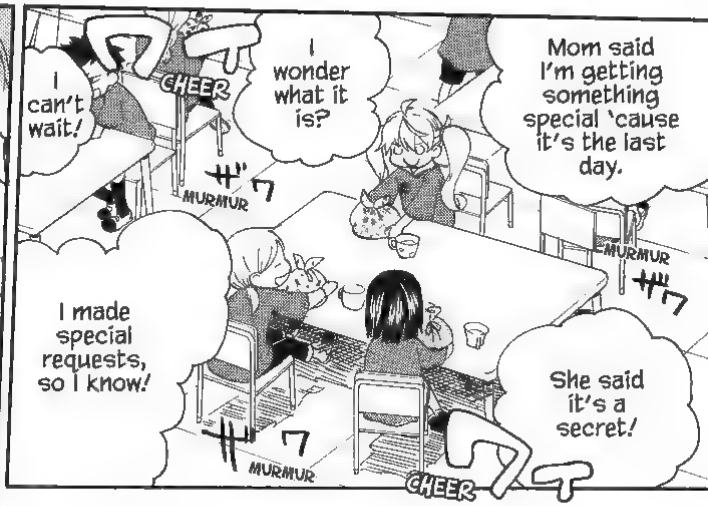
Find some nice text... Some famous heart-warming quote
Parents' Letter To Child
Maybe I should search for it.

Nah.
I'll just...
...write what I feel.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Morn-ing!
I'm getting breakfast ready, so just hang on.
Morn-ing!
CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP
Got it!


Thanks!
I'll get the plates out!


IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY!
LUNCH LUNCH

ぱかっ
POK


I can't wait!
CHEER
I wonder what it is?
MURMUR
Mom said I'm getting something special 'cause it's the last day.
MURMUR
I made special requests, so I know!
MURMUR
She said it's a secret!
CHEER

Oh...
There's something inside!
Straw-berries!
Mine was ginger fried pork!
It's so cute!
It's a letter.
A letter!
Dear...
Tsu...
Mu...
Gi.

Thank you for cleaning your plate every day.
When you bring back an empty lunch-box...
...it makes me go "yay!" and feel very happy
Today's ...
...your last day in pre-school, huh?
Have fun...
...eating with your friends...
...okay?
with your friends
from mommy and daddy

Let's eat!
I'm home!
We're home!
Here!
?
Thank you for the food!

Was it good?
Oooh!
I'm going to enjoy washing this lunch box.
カラ
EMPTY
Read it! Read it!
ぴょん
HOP
ぴょん
HOP
Huh?
It's your reply.
Here!
DADDY AND MOMMY. THE LUNCH WAS YUMMY. THANK YOU. I LOVE YOU!!
TSUMUGI

No...
Thank YOU!
Come back to visit any time, okay?
OKAY!
Congratulations on graduating!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Smile, every-one!

Daddy...
Where's my clothes with the kitty on them?
I put them on the sofa!
Okay!
You checked a bunch yesterday, right?
You didn't forget anything, right? You're good to go?
That's true, but...
Oh!
Tsumugi, what do you want for dinner?
I said we can decide when I get back!
Bye, Mom!
DING
Okay, bye, Mom!

To be continued...